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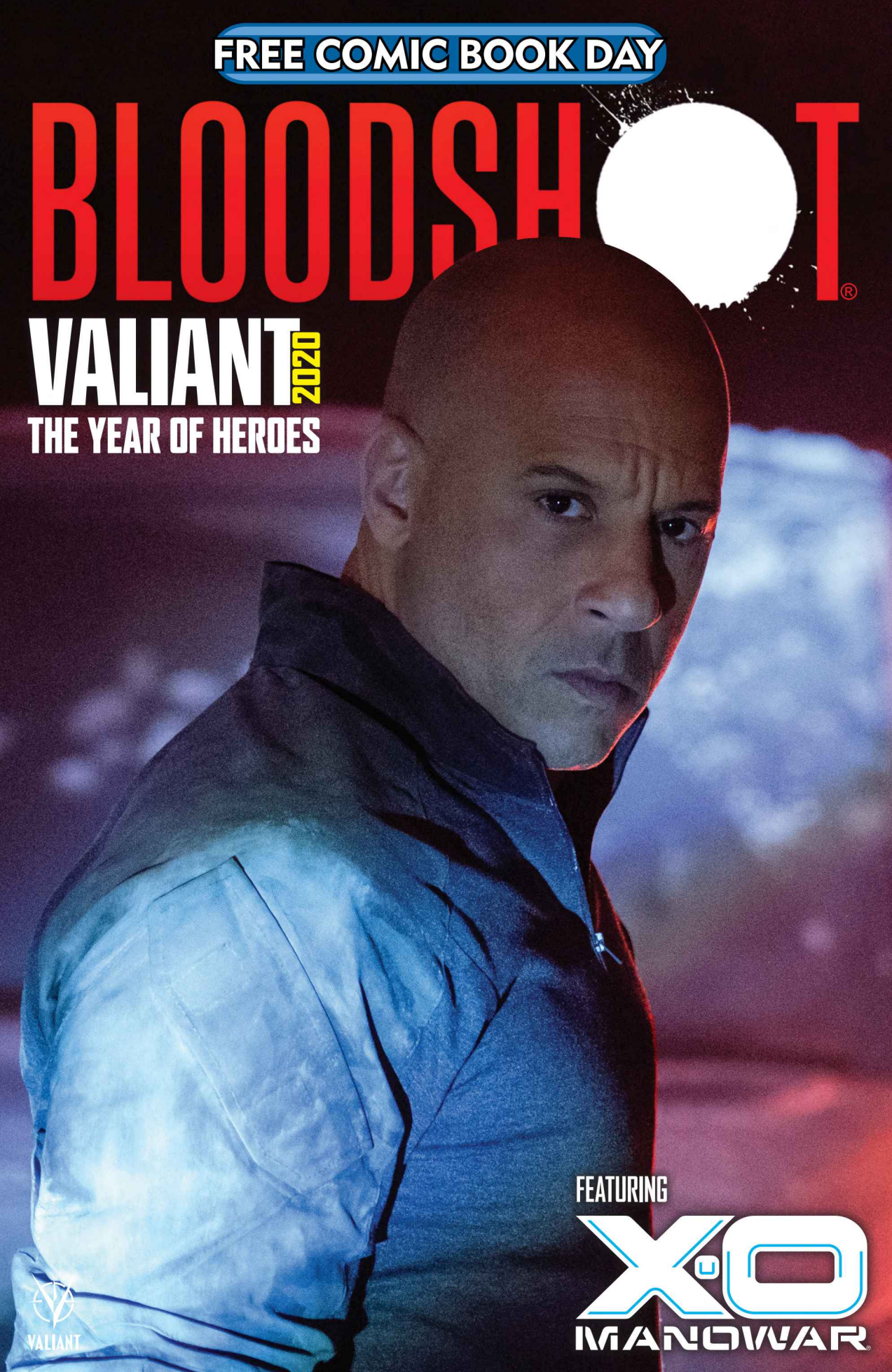
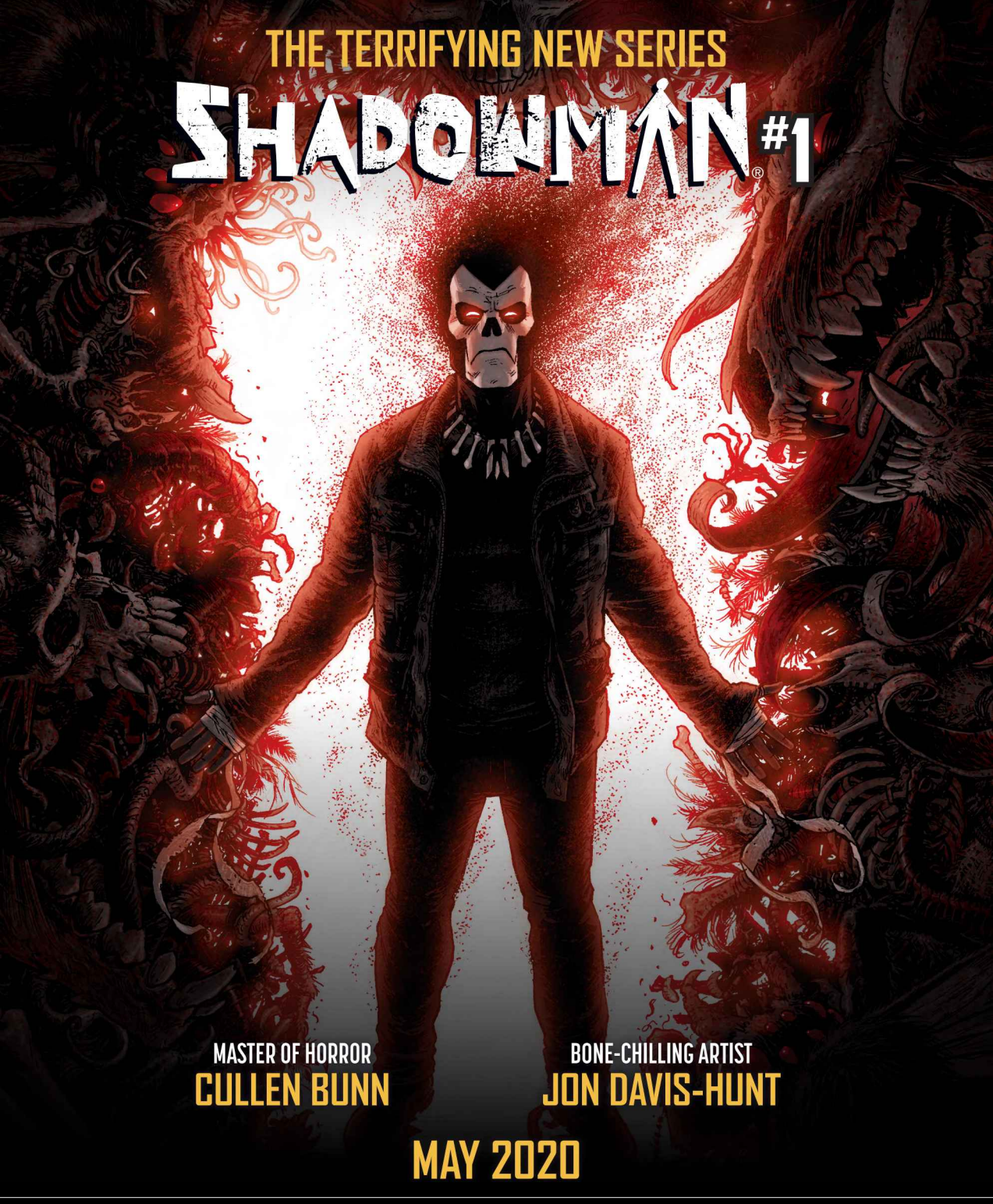

FREE COMIC BOOK DAY
BLOODSHOT
VALIANT 2020
THE YEAR OF HEROES
FEATURING
X-O MANOWAR
VALIANT



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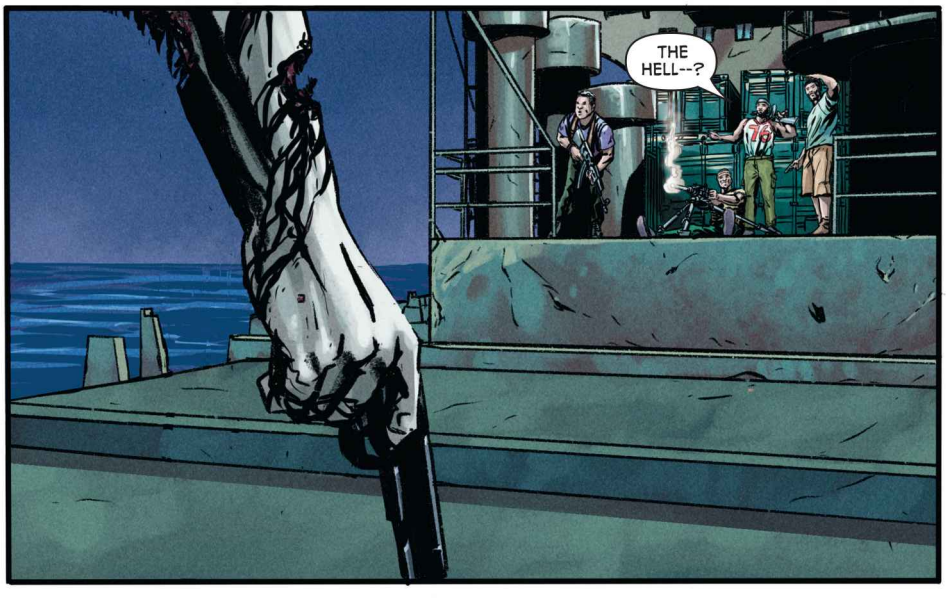
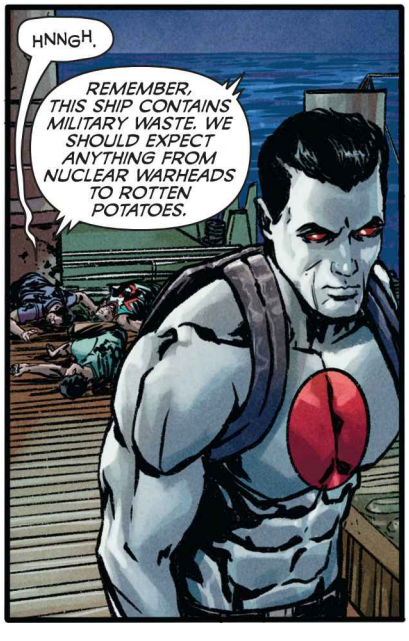
NEW YORK CITY. USA.
WILFORT? WIFFLORD?
IT'S WILFRED. WILFRED WIGANS.
ONE UNLEADED NITRO ABSOLUTE BLACK?
-SIGH- YES. OR AS I LIKE TO CALL IT...TEA.
HNF.
A COUNTRY OF ABSOLUTE MONSTERS, THIS ONE. NOT AN ANGEL TO BE FOUND.
SPEAKING OF...HOW'RE THINGS GOING SINCE LAST I CHECKED--
--BLOODSHOT?
GREAT. JUST GREAT, WIGANS.
WHATEVER THESE PIRATES PIRATED, IT'S WORTH DEFENDING TO THE DEATH.
YOU MIGHT WANT TO TURN THE SOUND DOWN FOR A SECOND.
THINGS ARE ABOUT TO GET LOUD.

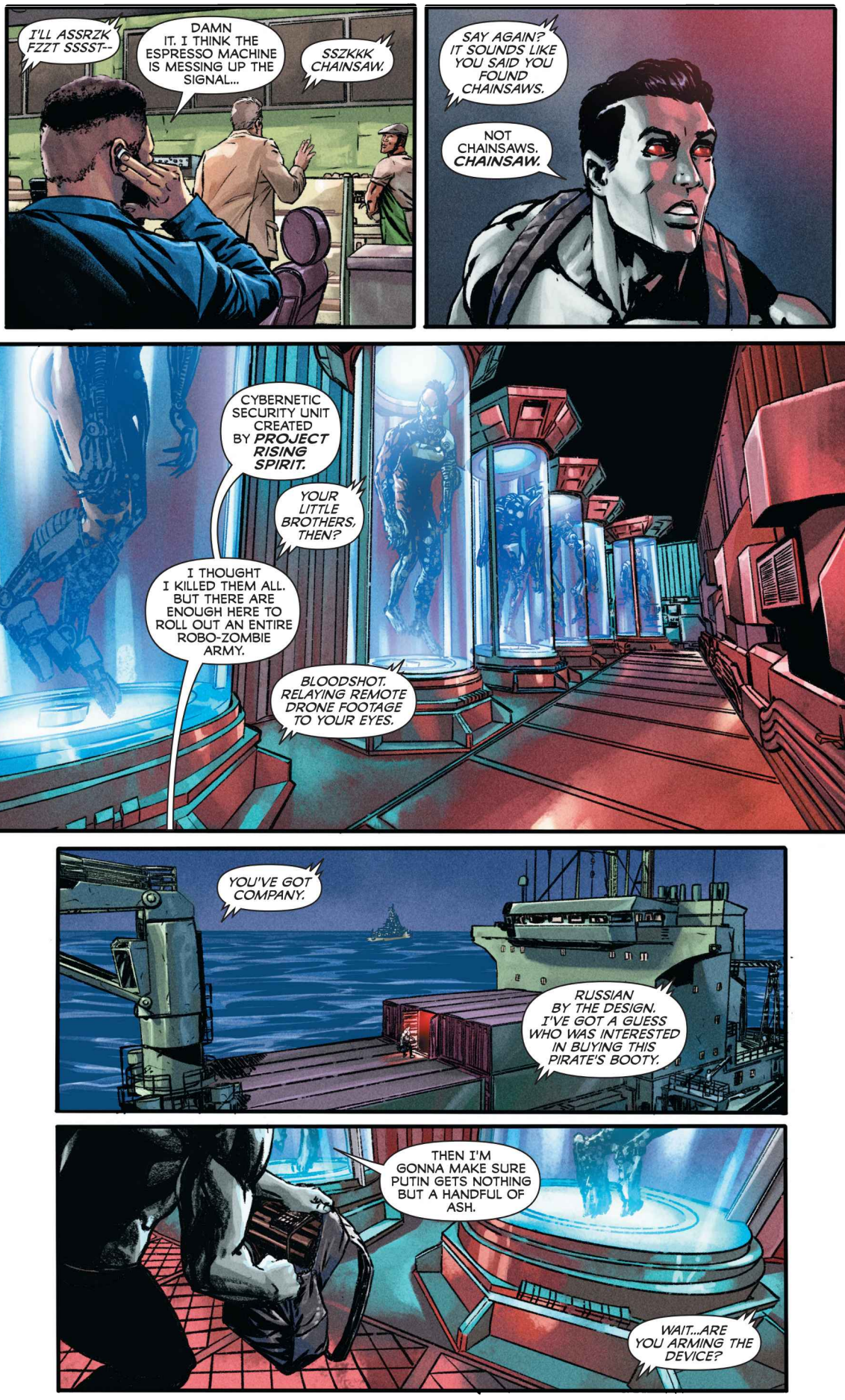
NANITES, DO YOUR THING.
SPLK
SPLK
SPLK
SPLK
BRRRROOOOMM


THE HELL--?

FNH. HNF.
ALL RIGHT, WIGANS. GO AHEAD AND TURN IT BACK UP. I KNOW HOW MUCH YOU LIKE THIS PART.

KRNCH POK KRAKK PNCH
AND NOW WE FIND OUT WHAT'S BEHIND DOOR NUMBER ONE.
FLORD


HNNGH.
REMEMBER, THIS SHIP CONTAINS MILITARY WASTE. WE SHOULD EXPECT ANYTHING FROM NUCLEAR WARHEADS TO ROTTEN POTATOES.


I'LL ASSRZK FZZT SSSST--
DAMN IT. I THINK THE ESPRESSO MACHINE IS MESSING UP THE SIGNAL...
SSZKKK CHAINSAW.
SAY AGAIN? IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU SAID YOU FOUND CHAINSAWS.
NOT CHAINSAWS. CHAINSAW.
CYBERNETIC SECURITY UNIT CREATED BY PROJECT RISING SPIRIT.
YOUR LITTLE BROTHERS, THEN?
I THOUGHT I KILLED THEM ALL. BUT THERE ARE ENOUGH HERE TO ROLL OUT AN ENTIRE ROBO-ZOMBIE ARMY.
BLOODSHOT. RELAYING REMOTE DRONE FOOTAGE TO YOUR EYES.
YOU'VE GOT COMPANY.
RUSSIAN BY THE DESIGN. I'VE GOT A GUESS WHO WAS INTERESTED IN BUYING THIS PIRATE'S BOOTY.
THEN I'M GONNA MAKE SURE PUTIN GETS NOTHING BUT A HANDFUL OF ASH.
WAIT...ARE YOU ARMING THE DEVICE?

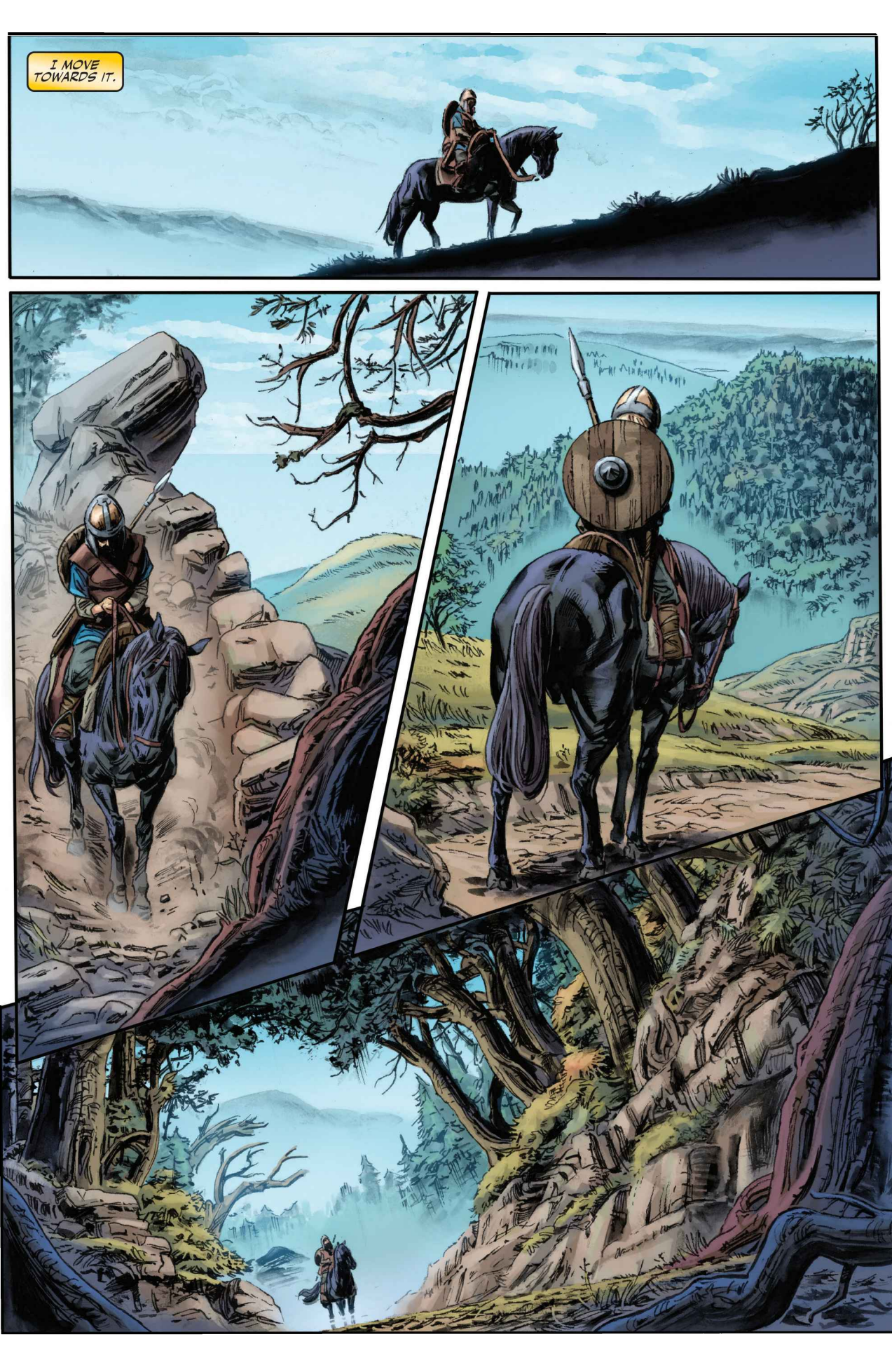
BLOODSHOT. I WAS VERY CLEAR ON THE INSTRUCTIONS. YOU NEED TO GET GOOD AND CLEAR OF THAT THING BEFORE YOU ARM IT. YOU'RE NOT INVINCIBLE, DO YOU HEAR ME?
YOU'RE NOT...
OH HELL.
A COUNTRY OF ABSOLUTE MONSTERS, THIS ONE.
NOT AN ANGEL TO BE FOUND.
TO BE CONTINUED IN BLOODSHOT #10!

X-O MANOWAR
LIFE IS WAR, ARIC, SO YOU MUST TRAIN.
I CAN'T REMEMBER A TIME WHEN I HAVEN'T.
YOU'RE BRED FOR BATTLE, BOY. ALREADY YOU'RE STRONG ENOUGH TO BEAR THE DEAD-MAN'S ARMOR.
YOU LOOK FIT AND FINE.
WEAR IT THROUGH THE DAY.
TAKE WULFSCOURGE OUT 'TILL THE SUN BEGINS TO SET SO YOU AND THE HORSE CAN GET USED TO THE WEIGHT.
YES, FATHER.

"BUT YOU KNOW TO AVOID THE GROVE TO THE SOUTHEAST...
"THOSE ARE THE SORTS OF WOODS WHERE THE MONSTERS OF OUR ANCESTORS STILL THRIVE."
CIRCA 385 AD.
SOME 1,600 YEARS LATER.

EARTH'S PLANETARY RING. MADE OF DEBRIS FROM A DESTROYED VINE FLEET.
XO MANOWAR. CURRENT MISSION: MONITOR CHINESE AND RUSSIAN TECH MINING ON THE ALIEN DEBRIS RING FOR U.S. INTERESTS.
I'VE SPENT MUCH TIME UP HERE LATELY. I HAVE FOUND THE WRECKAGE FLOWS IN A SINGLE, SET DIRECTION AROUND THE EARTH.
IF I PLACE MYSELF IN ITS CURRENT JUST SO, I AM CARRIED ALONG, LIKE A REED ON THE SURFACE OF A SLOW RIVER.

THE FEELING I HAVE WHEN I AM HERE--ALL BUT ALONE, SAVE FOR THE ALIEN ARMOR I WEAR, SHANHARA--IS HARD TO PUT INTO WORDS.
IT IS THE OPPOSITE OF CONTENTMENT. I FEEL AS A SHIP UNMOORED. DRIFTING FARTHER AND FARTHER FROM HOME AND KIN.
WAIT...
THERE...
...A THANKFUL DISTRACTION.
A SCRATCHING AT THE NEARBY SKY.
SHANHARA GIVES ME ENCHANTED EYES SO THAT I MAY SEE THE DISTANT SIGNAL FIRE AS IF IT WERE CLOSE.
OFTEN, THE ARMOR WILL TEACH ME A THING THAT I COULD NEVER HAVE KNOWN ON MY OWN...
...IN THIS WAY I UNDERSTAND THAT THIS IS NO CREATION OF THE VINE.


I MOVE TOWARDS IT.

HAILAG GROVE... THE VERY PLACE FATHER WARNED US OF.
BUT ARE WE NOT HEROES, WULFSCOURGE?
CRKK
FLLT
WEEHEEHEE
FLLT
WHOA!
FLLT
AUGURY.
PHHFP

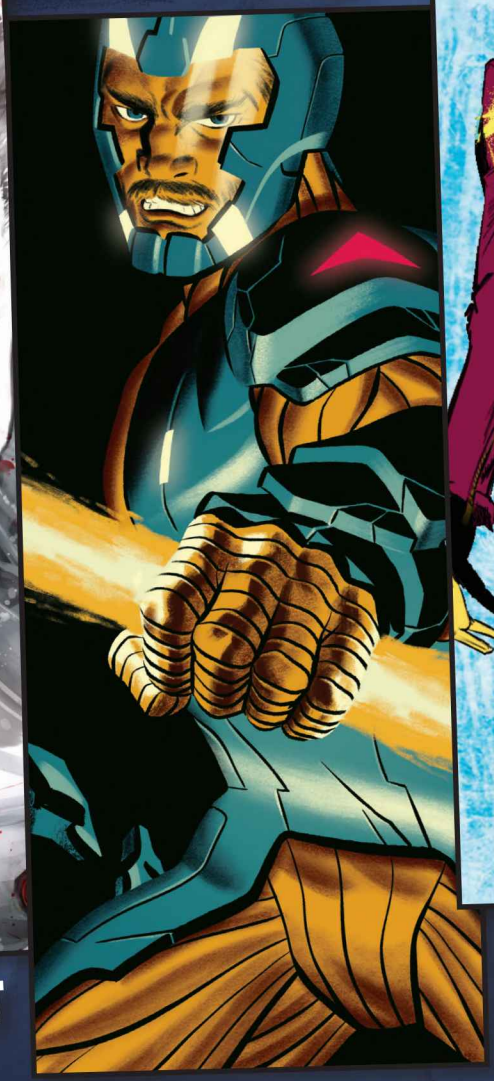
CHA--
FORWARD.
THIS IS AN UNEASY PLACE.
SOMETHING THERE?
MONSTER.
THE ARMOR'S EYES ALSO ALLOW ME TO SEE THINGS THAT ARE NOT VISIBLE WITHOUT THEM.
LIKE THIS STREAM OF POISONOUS LIGHT THAT TRICKLES FROM THE MYSTERIOUS ARTIFACT.
PERHAPS IT IS SOMETHING THE VINE FOUND OR STOLE THAT NOW FLOATS AMONG THEIR WRECKAGE?

THE MOMENT I TOUCH IT, BOTH SHANHARA AND I BEGIN TO HAVE OUR SEPARATE SPIRITS DRAINED.
AND THE MORE STRENGTH THAT DRAINS FROM THE ARMOR, THE MORE OF THE POISONOUS LIGHT POURS FROM THE ARTIFACT.
AAGGHHH!
THERE IS PANIC, I CAN NO LONGER PARSE SHANHARA'S THOUGHTS FROM MY OWN.
FEEL
THROUGH THE BLUR I COME TO UNDERSTAND THE ARTIFACT AS A KIND OF DORMANT SICKNESS ACTIVATED BY MY TOUCH...
ALIVE NOW, IT DRAGS SURROUNDING DEBRIS INTO IT. IT GROWS AGGRESSIVELY.
ONE THING IS CLEAR... THE ARTIFACT IS BUILT FOR BATTLE.
SO AM I.
FWAPPP

TELL ME A STORY, FATHER. OF THE GREAT HEROES WHO FOUGHT MONSTERS!
YES? AND WHO WERE ALSO KINGS?
AND WHO WIELDED MAGIC WEAPONS!
AND WHO TOOK CARE OF THEIR PEOPLE?
AND WHO RODE GIANT WOLVES INTO BATTLE!
AND WHO FACED THE BLOWS OF FATE AND THE THROWS OF DARKNESS HEAD ON!
AND WERE RARELY WRONGED FOR FEAR OF REVENGE!
AND WHO DIED HERO DEATHS SO THAT THEY WOULD LIVE ON WITH GOD IN THE SKY.
AND WHOSE DEATHS BROUGHT TIMES OF DARKNESS TO THE LAND?
YES, FATHER...
THEIR VERY BODIES FORMING THE HEAVENLY PYRES OF NIGHT FOREVER!

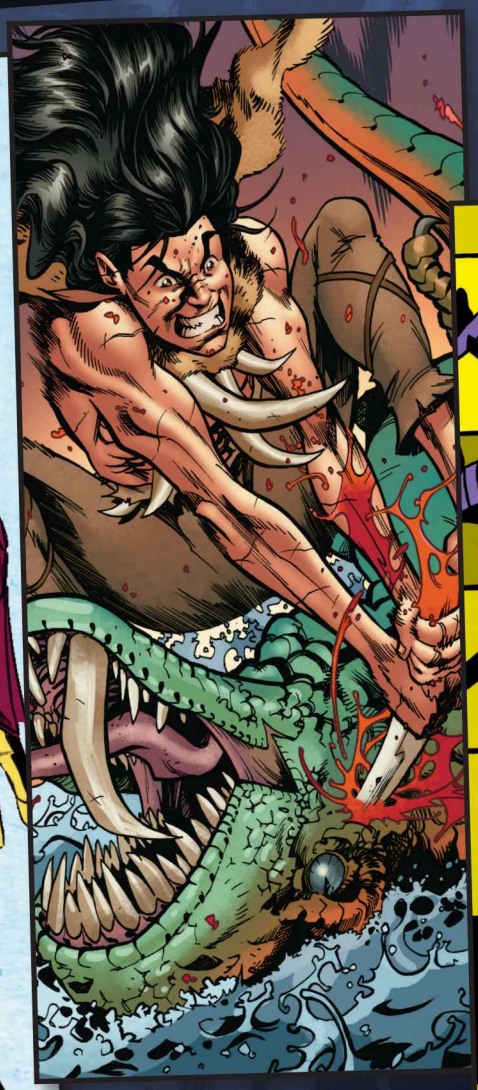
THE YEAR OF HEROES

BLOODSHOT
ON SALE NOW

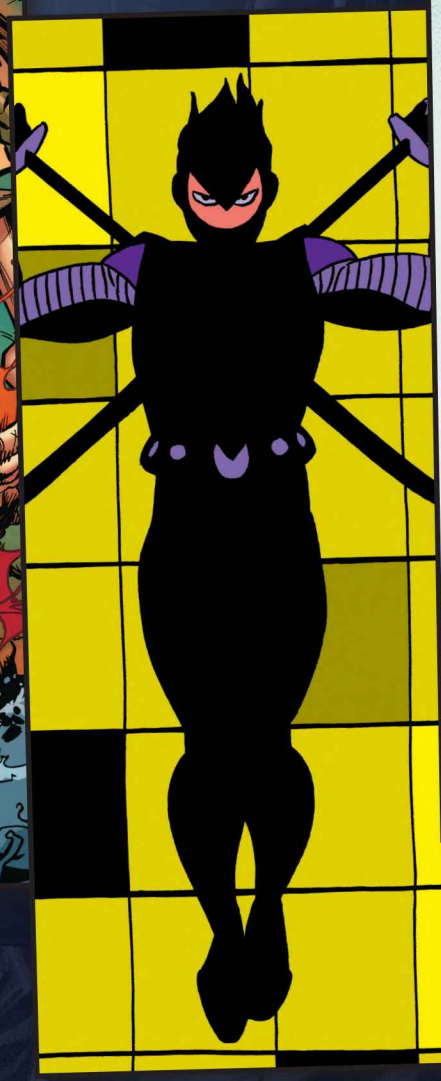


X-O MANOWAR
ON SALE NOW

THE HARBINGER
COMING SOON



SAVAGE
COMING SOON

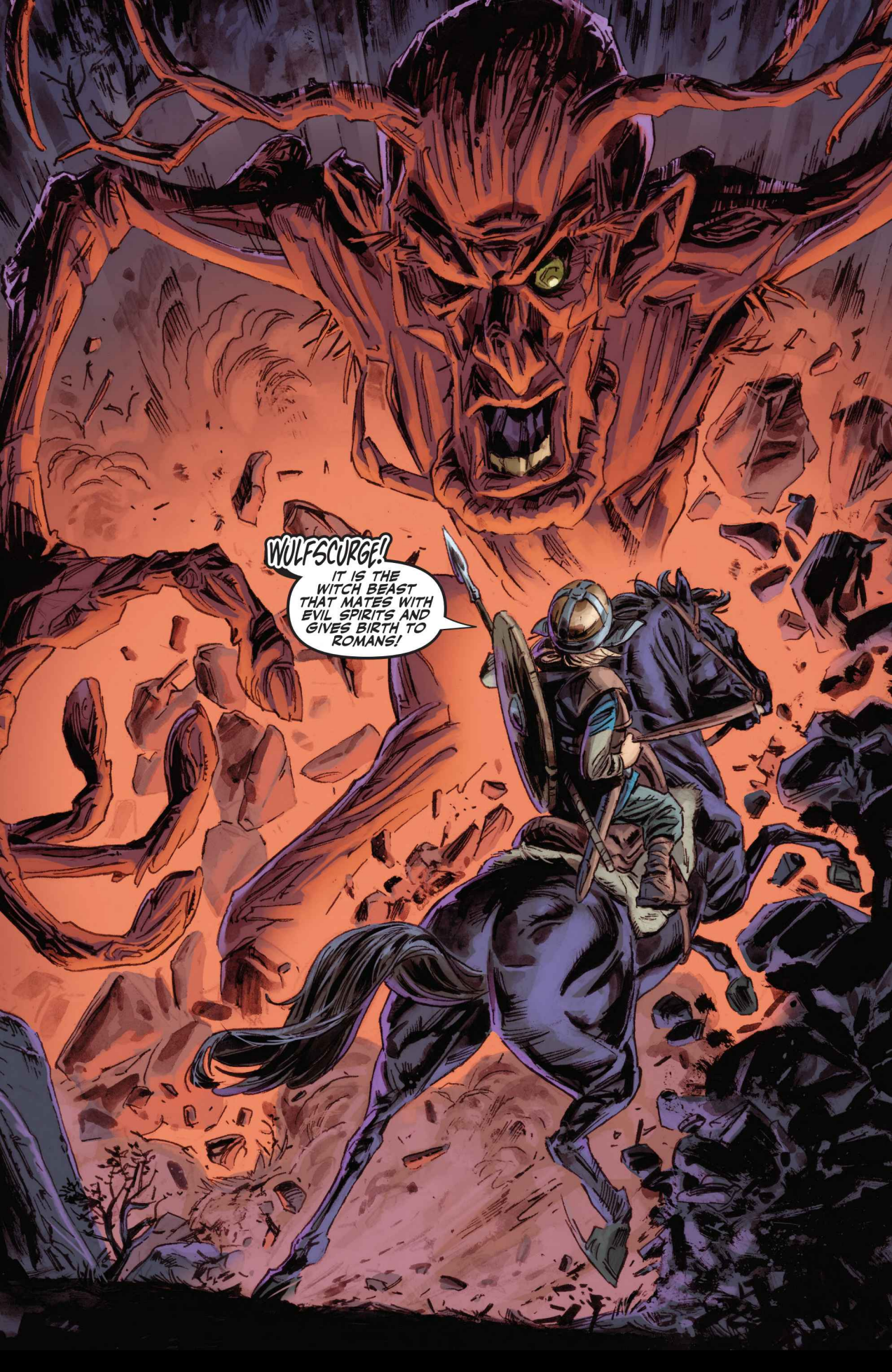


NINJAK
COMING SOON

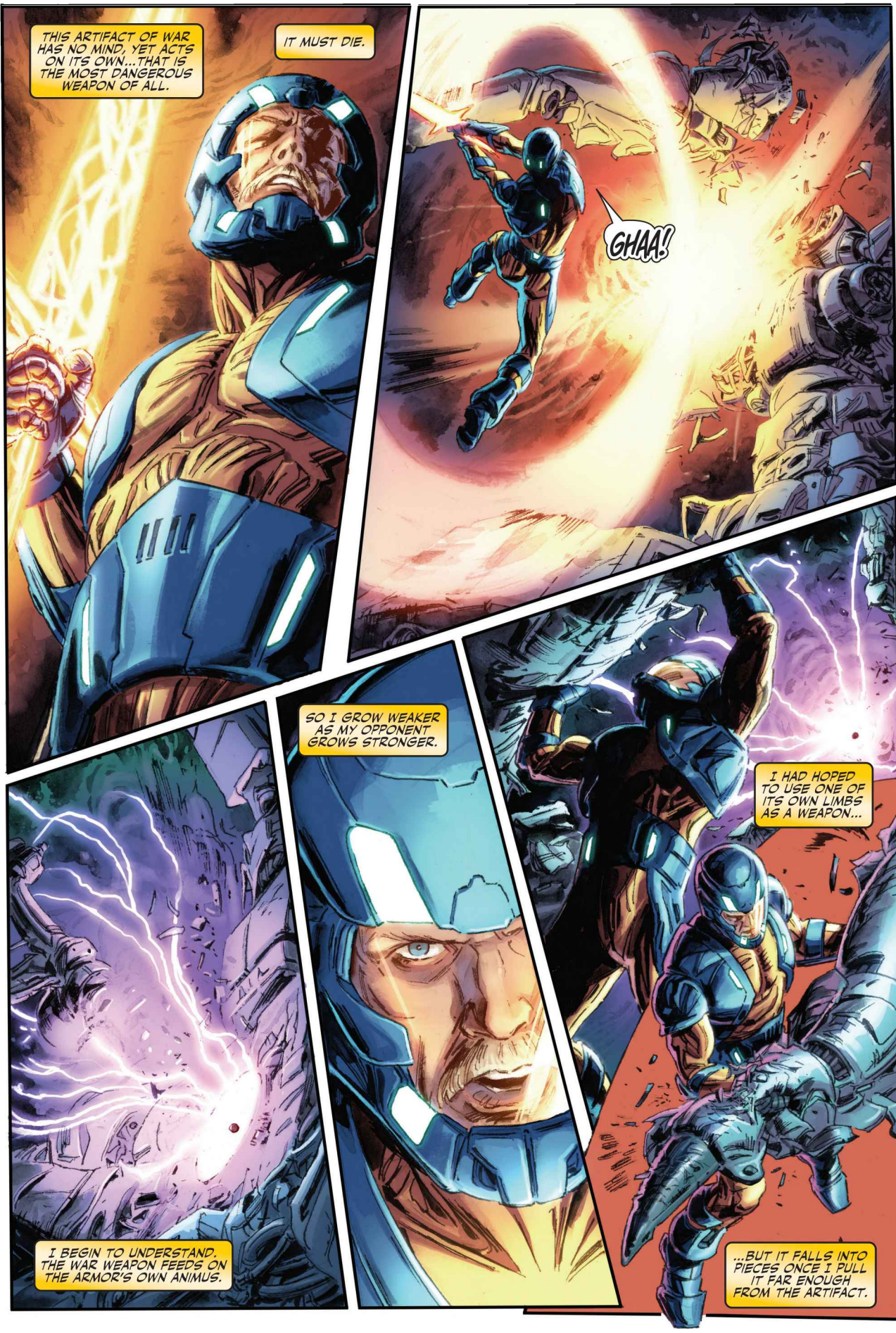
FAITH
COMING SOON

VALIANT

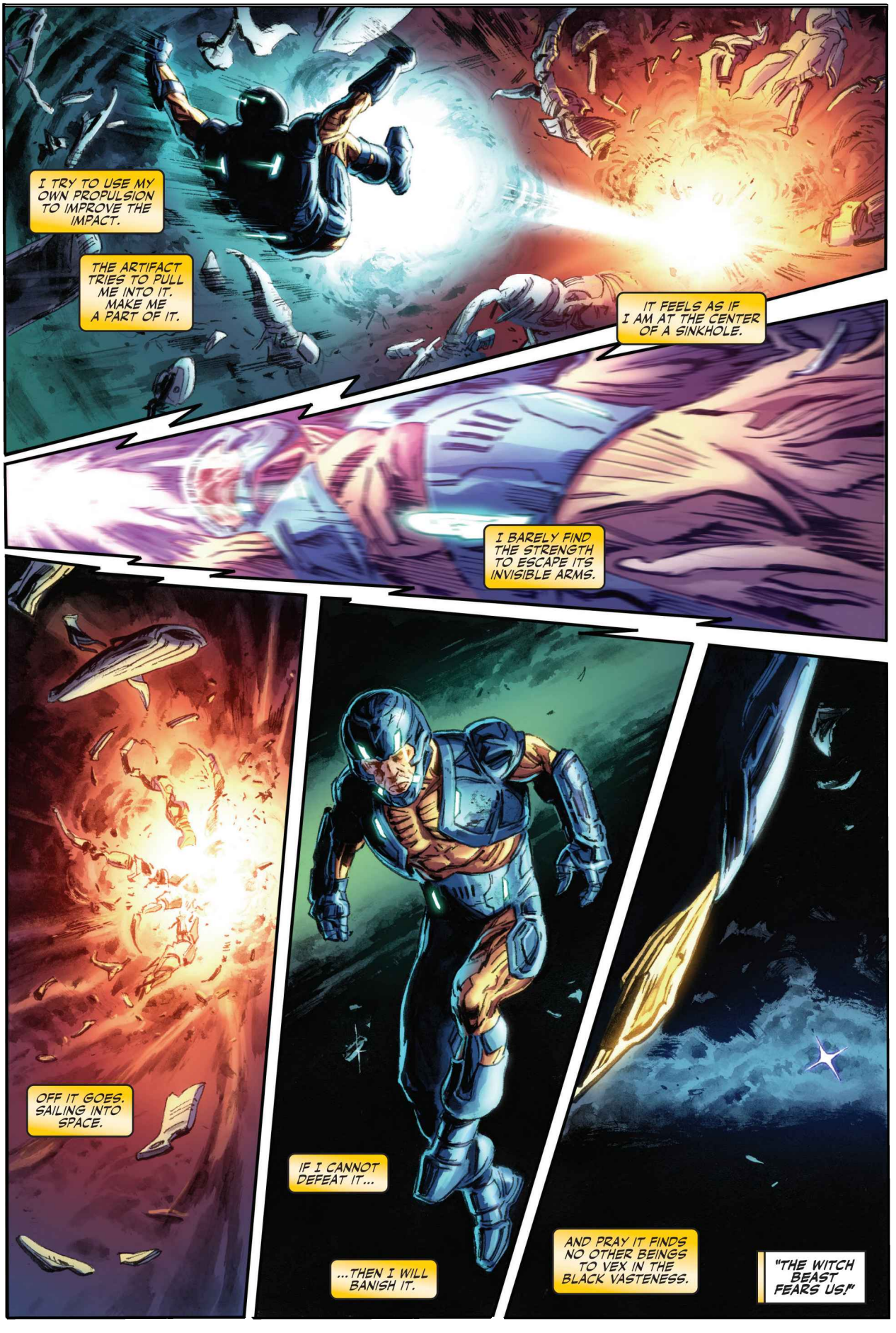
"...TELL ME ONE OF THOSE STORIES."
MY WEAPONS SEEM TO HAVE ONLY GIVEN THE CONJURED CREATURE GREATER STRENGTH!
"ENERGY," SHANHARA SAYS. "THE THING BEFORE YOU FEEDS ON ENERGY."


WULFSCURGE!
IT IS THE WITCH BEAST THAT MATES WITH EVIL SPIRITS AND GIVES BIRTH TO ROMANS!

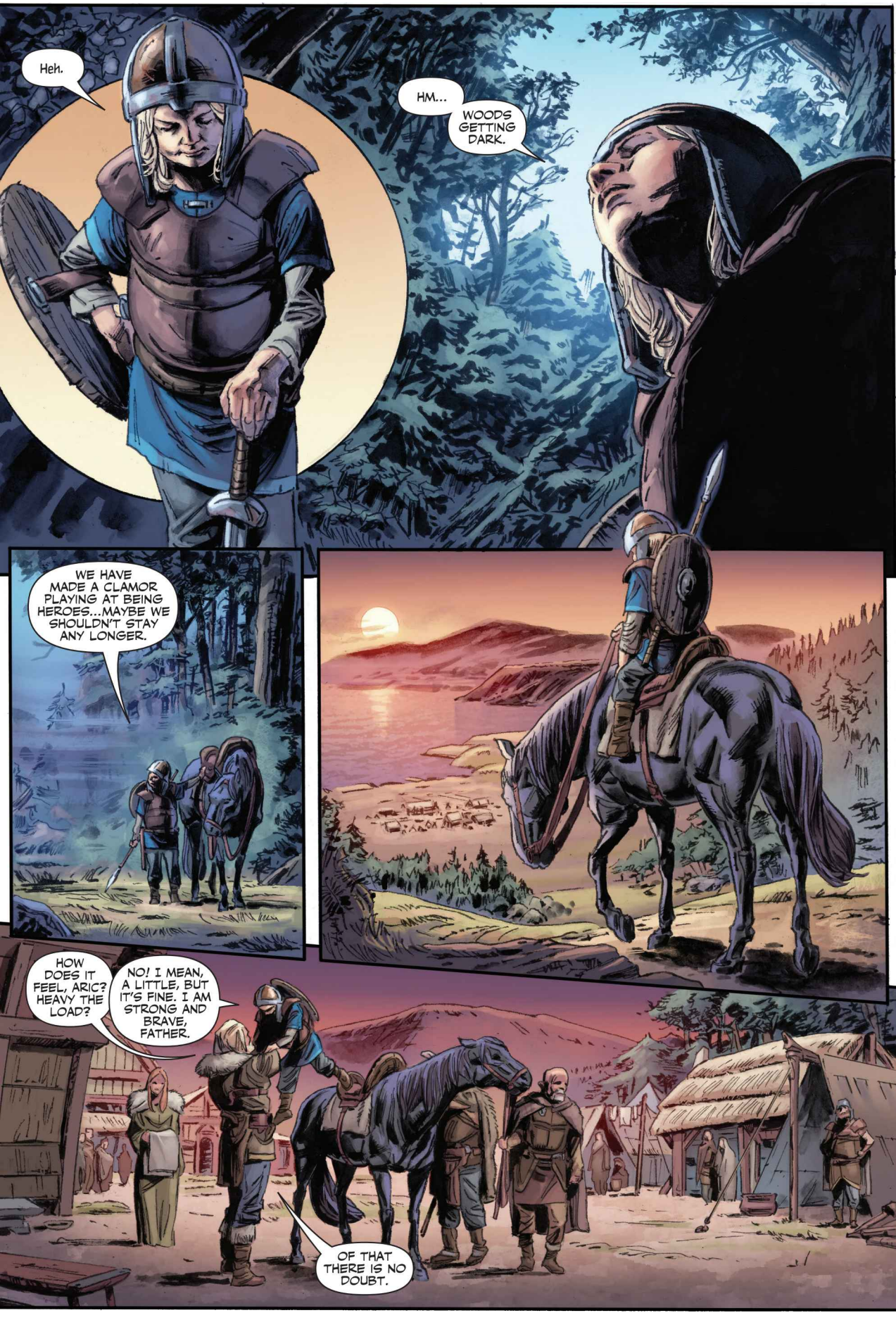
RRAAARGH!
DEATH TO THE OLD WORLD'S DEMONS!

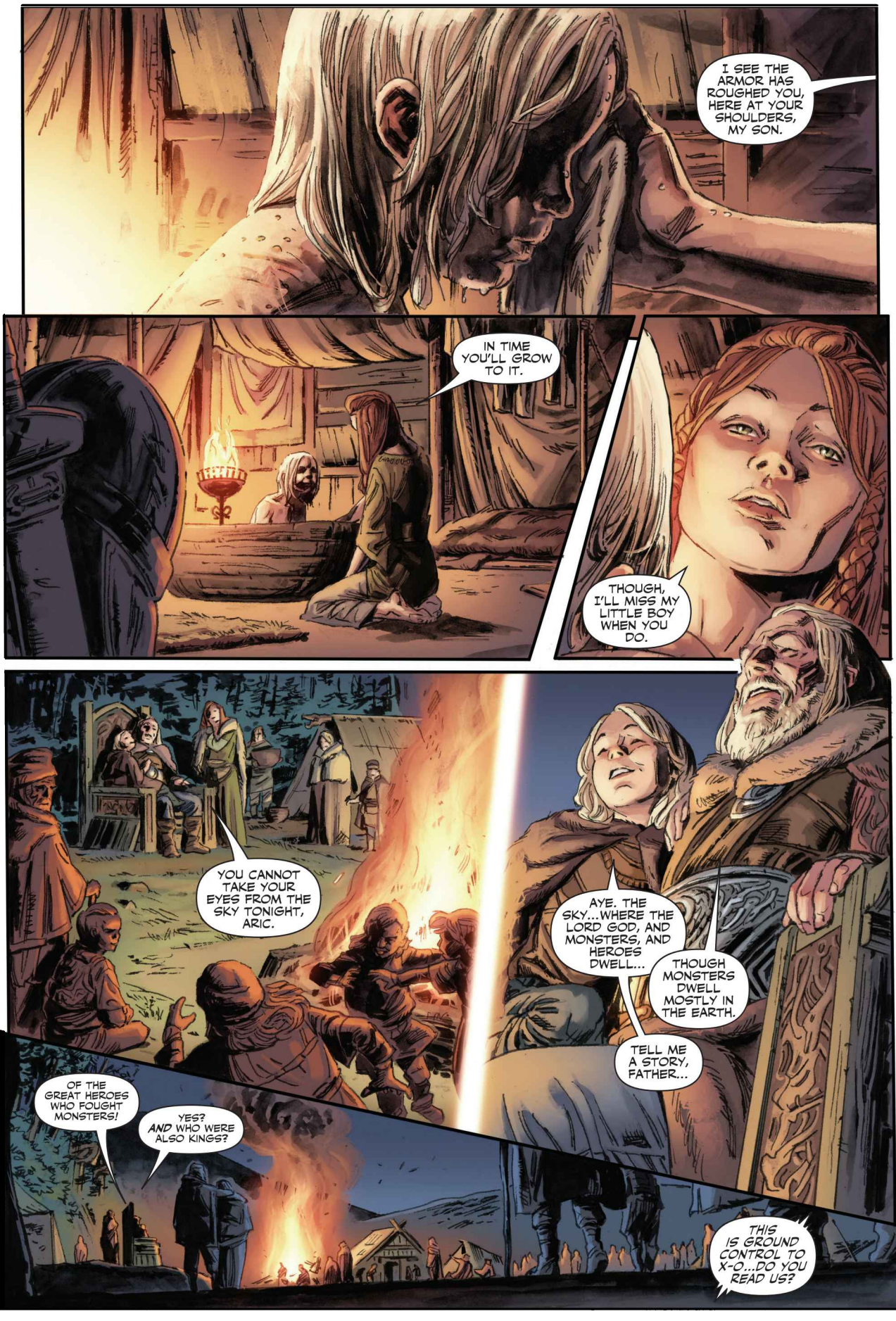

THIS ARTIFACT OF WAR HAS NO MIND, YET ACTS ON ITS OWN...THAT IS THE MOST DANGEROUS WEAPON OF ALL.
IT MUST DIE.
GHAA!
I HAD HOPED TO USE ONE OF ITS OWN LIMBS AS A WEAPON...
SO I GROW WEAKER AS MY OPPONENT GROWS STRONGER.
I BEGIN TO UNDERSTAND. THE WAR WEAPON FEEDS ON THE ARMOR'S OWN ANIMUS.
...BUT IT FALLS INTO PIECES ONCE I PULL IT FAR ENOUGH FROM THE ARTIFACT.

IT'S STILL GROWING. IN SHORT TIME ITS BODY COULD CONTAIN ALL OF THE DEBRIS HERE IN THE RING.
I HAVE ONLY ONE CHANCE...
...AND NEVER WAS I MUCH OF AN ARCHER.
FFFIZZZ
I MUST GET THIS FLOTSAM TRAVELING AS FAST AS POSSIBLE.
AS SOON AS I'M BACK WITHIN THE ARTIFACT'S REACH, I AM AGAIN CAUGHT IN ITS GRASPING, STINGING LIGHT. THE WEAKENING PAIN RETURNS.
GHAAA!
MY THOUGHTS STUTTER AND MELT.
WHMMM
I HAVE ONE SHOT.


I TRY TO USE MY OWN PROPULSION TO IMPROVE THE IMPACT.
THE ARTIFACT TRIES TO PULL ME INTO IT. MAKE ME A PART OF IT.
IT FEELS AS IF I AM AT THE CENTER OF A SINKHOLE.
I BARELY FIND THE STRENGTH TO ESCAPE ITS INVISIBLE ARMS.
OFF IT GOES. SAILING INTO SPACE.
IF I CANNOT DEFEAT IT...
...THEN I WILL BANISH IT.
AND PRAY IT FINDS NO OTHER BEINGS TO VEX IN THE BLACK VASTENESS.
"THE WITCH BEAST FEARS US!"

GHA!
YAH!
VICTORY!
HAHA!
AYAH!
WE HAVE SLAIN THE MOTHER OF ROMAN BASTARDS, WULFSCOURGE!
CHMP

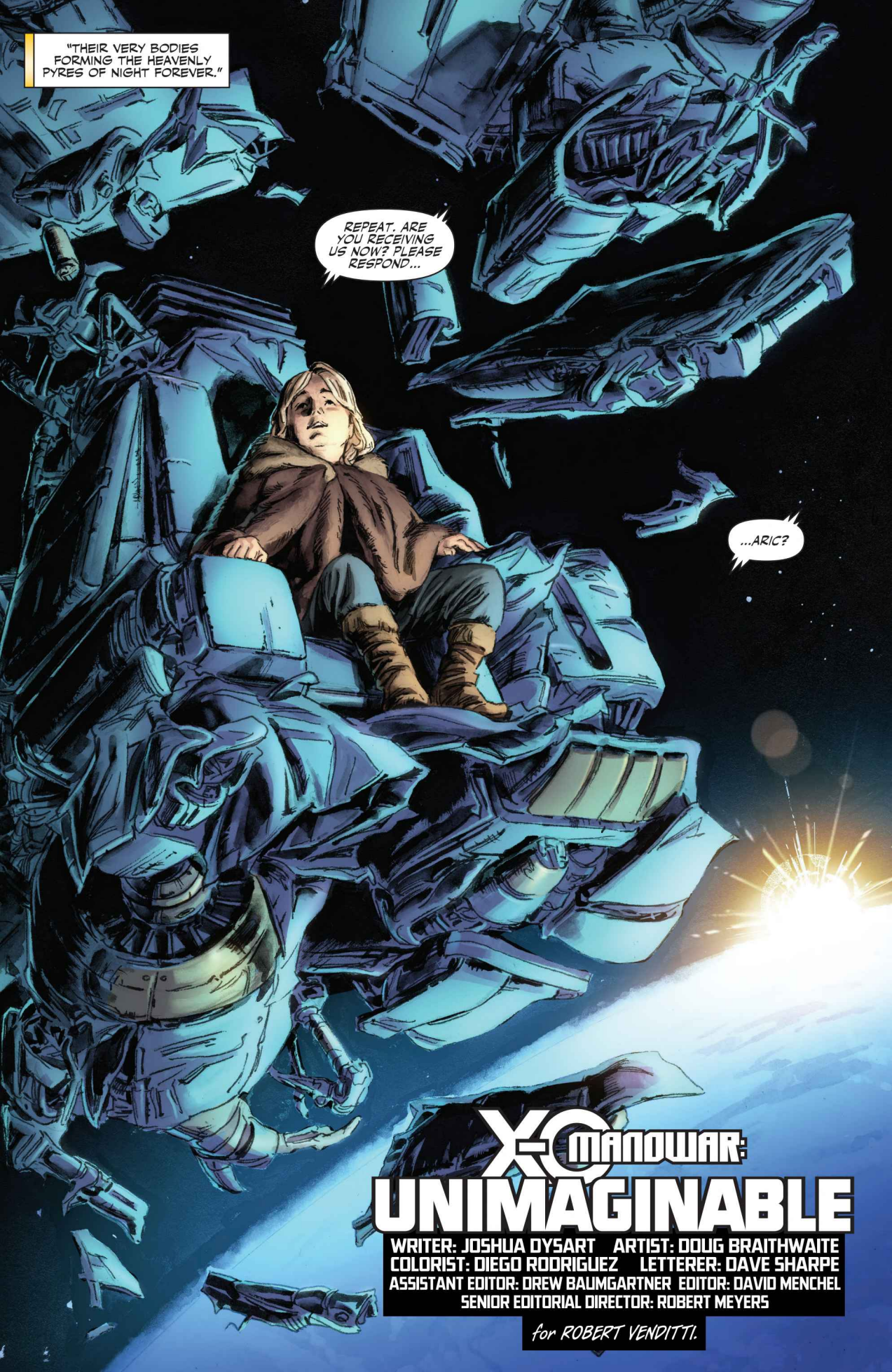

Heh.
HM...
WOODS GETTING DARK.
WE HAVE MADE A CLAMOR PLAYING AT BEING HEROES...MAYBE WE SHOULDN'T STAY ANY LONGER.
HOW DOES IT FEEL, ARIC? HEAVY THE LOAD?
NO! I MEAN, A LITTLE, BUT IT'S FINE. I AM STRONG AND BRAVE, FATHER.
OF THAT THERE IS NO DOUBT.


I SEE THE ARMOR HAS ROUGHED YOU, HERE AT YOUR SHOULDERS, MY SON.
IN TIME YOU'LL GROW TO IT.
THOUGH, I'LL MISS MY LITTLE BOY WHEN YOU DO.
YOU CANNOT TAKE YOUR EYES FROM THE SKY TONIGHT, ARIC.
AYE. THE SKY...WHERE THE LORD GOD, AND MONSTERS, AND HEROES DWELL...
THOUGH MONSTERS DWELL MOSTLY IN THE EARTH.
TELL ME A STORY, FATHER...
OF THE GREAT HEROES WHO FOUGHT MONSTERS!
YES? *AND* WHO WERE ALSO KINGS?
THIS IS GROUND CONTROL TO X-O...DO YOU READ US?

"AND WHO WIELDED MAGIC WEAPONS!"
ARIC ARE YOU THERE?
WE PICKED UP SOME KIND OF GAMMA RAY BURST AND BRIEFLY LOST YOUR SIGNAL...

...CAN YOU READ US?
AND WHO TOOK CARE OF THEIR PEOPLE?
AND WHO RODE GIANT WOLVES INTO BATTLE!

"AND WHO FACED THE BLOWS OF FATE AND THE THROWS OF DARKNESS HEAD ON!"
"AND WHO DIED HERO DEATHS SO THAT THEY WOULD LIVE FOREVER WITH GOD IN THE SKY."


"THEIR VERY BODIES FORMING THE HEAVENLY PYRES OF NIGHT FOREVER."
REPEAT. ARE YOU RECEIVING US NOW? PLEASE RESPOND...
...ARIC?
X-O MANOWAR:
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